



May 25, 2010

MEDIA NOTE

## Traditional Tuti

### A Collection of Photographs of Tuti Island by Sudanese and American Photographers

Over one year in the making, *Traditional Tuti* is a stunning book of photographs that reflects the spirit of collaboration among a team of Sudanese and Americans working through art toward the joint task of preserving cultural patrimony. The 120-page full-color book, printed in Sudan by Sinan Printing Press, documents Tuti Island and its lyricism as well as the challenges of change the island faces since the March 2009 opening of the Tuti Suspension Bridge. Previously accessible only by ferry, what the book calls “a pearl protected by the growing shell of the 200-year old metropolis,” has now become within reach of the masses, and the consequences are slowly taking the form of a subtle transformation. The aim of the book is to explore what traditional Tuti and daily life have been up until now as well as the sights and points of reference that are icons of the island experience. The book’s partners – Sudanese Association for Archiving Knowledge (SUDAAK); the Embassy of the United States of America; the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports; and Tuti Cultural Forum – worked conscientiously to generate a final product that adds into the weave the cultural sensitivities of its many contributors. The chapter titles indicate the visual scope, moving from Economic Pulse, Architecture, Fruits of the Earth, People, Tuti in Transition, Daily Life, and Rites of Passage, to the signature chapter of Traditional Tuti. Underscoring the international nature of the documentation project, the text is in three languages: Arabic, English and French.

As this first limited-run edition is not for sale, project partners will use the copies as an example of a constructive partnership that furthers mutual understanding between peoples. Among other depositories, copies of the book will be distributed to the National Archives, Library of Congress, universities throughout Sudan, the schools of Tuti Island, Khartoum State Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife, cultural entities, governmental bodies and the World Intellectual Property Organization/Traditional Knowledge Division. The copyright holder, NGO Sudanese Association for Archiving Knowledge (SUDAAK), is hopeful that demand will warrant a subsequent for-sale second edition.

### Book Launch Ceremony – Open to the Media

The official public unveiling of the book will be held on Tuti Island, on Saturday, May 29, from 19:30 to 21:00, at El Fatih Abouda Garden. Media are requested to kindly confirm their attendance with the U.S. Embassy in Khartoum. Contact Information and Media and Assistant Nadia Hassan Omer Ahmed, within the Public Affairs Section, at +249-91-216-0151 (mobile) or send an e-mail to [AhmedNH@state.gov](mailto:AhmedNH@state.gov).

**Quotes from the Editorial Production Team  
of  
Traditional Tuti**

*\*This book documents the true story of Tuti and will help preserve the rights of its people and the land. Maybe the book will make Tutians more careful about their collective management of their rights. —Mahir Ahmed Mohamed Abdelgadir*

*\*For Sudanese, transition is a collective task for all — Tutians and non-Tutians — and it is a time to take care of this responsibly. —Mahir Ahmed Mohamed Abdelgadir*

*\*Over the 500 to 600 years of Tuti's history, this book is the first of its kind. It is the starting point for having literature on Tuti. —Mahir Ahmed Mohamed Abdelgadir*

*\*This is the first time for Tuti Island to inject art into history. —Mohamed Al Hassan Mohamed Abdu*

*\*The book documents the island through photographs, a step that no one before had taken. The project also taught us lessons about critical decision-making, quick-time solutions and tackling problems as a team. —Ashraf Elsharif Aboud*

*\*This book is about partnership. It has created a model for following steps as part of a larger process. Previously, long-term projects progressed without a road map. —Ashraf Elsharif Aboud*

*\*The way the project partners worked together — a foreign Mission, the Government of Sudan and two non-governmental organizations — is a good model for working with NGOs. —Fawzia Yousif Galal Eldin*

*\*Participation in this project has brought the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports closer to the work of non-governmental organizations. Working with documentation projects can give the Ministry strengthened connections to the people. —Suhair Mohamed Mohamed Ali*

*\*Part of the challenge for SUDAAC was setting an example of responsible grants management. For NGOs, having a reputation for managing money and for bringing to term a well-managed grant set a positive precedent and bring on new opportunities for partnership. —Dr. Badreldin Omer Hag Mussa*

*\***Traditional Tuti** has laid out a new model for acknowledging the rights of the creator and for seeing the benefits to doing this. This is a new model to preserve the intellectual property rights of all those involved in artistic contribution. —Dr. Badreldin Omer Hag Mussa*

*\*The book has been an experience in project evolution. Like survival of the fittest, the best ideas of a multiplicity of voices have given the book its final form. —Judith Ravin*

*\*The book will create enormous awareness about the role of documentation. The only way to keep our history alive is to let the younger generation and foreigners know as much about Sudan as is possible. This is the role of SUDAAC. This is an ideal way of doing things: working through artistic expression to generate awareness. —Fawzia Yousif Galal Eldin*